



ANMF NEWSFLASH

Public Sector Transfer of Care

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Tasmanian Branch (ANMF) appeared before the Tasmanian Industrial Commission (TIC) yesterday afternoon in relation to the Transfer of Care (ToC) Emergency Department (ED), Tasmanian Public Hospitals and were supported by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) as the Intervenor. The Status Quo position was reinforced so the 60-minute timeframe for ToC is the Status Quo position. The Tasmanian Health Service (THS) was directed to take down references to the 45-minute timeframe from their online dashboard and the acting president re-iterated that the 60 minute timeframe was what was previously agreed to.

The Tasmanian Health Service (THS) made offers to call the ToC Protocol a Standard Operating Procedure, but the ANMF consider that this is another phrase used to describe what was previously known as a Mandate or a Protocol, but it is the practice itself which is the issue. The ANMF maintain that the ToC policy, which is based on arbitrary timeframes and interferes with clinical decision making, is unsafe.

The AMA provided much support in relation to flaws in the presentation of the THS's data as the latter's argument is based on the numbers and percentage of times Ambulance Tasmania present patients from within the community to the Hospitals. The ANMF provided specific examples of breaches of standards in nursing care, particularly regarding the minimal nursing resources witnessed by the ANMF at the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) on Monday 6 July 2026 and the lack of escalation processes available for nurses to utilise when dealing with increasingly large numbers of patients coming into the hospital.

The acting president facilitated discussions in relation to access and flow issues within the hospitals but this of itself, will not remove the unsafe ToC Policy, as far as the ANMF see it.



The ANMF relied on a report from the College of Emergency Medicine Australasia (CENA) in our submissions to the TIC. CENA are the experts and support us in maintaining that ToC is unsafe. This high-level expert clinical opinion ought to instruct the THS that they are on the wrong pathway with ToC, but the THS continue to support ToC (currently set at 60 minutes).

The parties will meet again soon to discuss going forward with Arbitration. We will provide updates as soon as we can.

The ANMF Tasmanian Branch is 8000 plus members strong! Supporting nurses, midwives, and care workers as the only union in Tasmania employing nurses, midwives and care workers to represent members. This is why our Organisers and Member Support Team are uniquely positioned to understand your experiences, represent you in your workplace, and offer industrial advice that's relevant to you.

Authorised by Emily Shepherd, ANMF Tasmanian Branch Secretary
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